

JOURNAL

of the

FOURTH GENERAL CONFERENCE

of the

METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH

held in

Cincinnati, O.

May, 1846.

PROCEEDINGS OF GENERAL CONFERENCE—1846.

FIRST DAY.

Cincinnati, May 5, 1846.

The General Conference met and organized at 9 o'clock this morning, by appointing Dr. F. Waters Chairman, pro tem.; and Brs. R. B. Thompson and J. E. Wilson Secretaries, pro tem. Br. E. Henkle then led in appropriate religious exercises.

The names of Annual Conferences were then called, and certificates of delegates handed in. It appeared that fifty eight delegates were present at the opening session. The Conferences having as yet no representation present, were, Pennsylvania Maine, S. Carolina, Alabama, Arkansas, Champlain, N. Jersey, N. York and Boston.

LIST OF DELEGATES, IN ATTENDANCE.

Pittsburgh Conference.

MINISTERS.

Geo Brown,
Wm Reeves,
P T Laishley,
F A Davis,
John Cowl,

LAYMEN.

J W Phillips,
Charles Craig,
J M DeFord,
F M Pierpoint.

Muskingum Conference.

C Springer,
Z Ragan,
J Dalbey, Jr.,
John Burns,
G Clancy,
R. Ammen,
I Thrapp,

John Bell,
S Rodman,
W B Kertin,
C. Campbell,
A W Beatty.

Ohio Conference.

A H Bassett,
R M Dalbey,
Jos White,
J E Wilson.

D C Carson,
Jas Foster,
M Kennedy,
H Snowden.

Indiana Conference.

D H Stephens,
Cyrus Jeffries,
S Morrison.

Wm Smith,

Illinois Conference.

John Clarke, Jr.,
Wm H Collins.

Joel Rice,
C Rice.

North Illinois Conference.

W E Martin.

S Turner.

Michigan Conference.
 James Gay H Brownson.
Genesee Conference.
 S M Short Dan'l Upton.
Onandaga Conference.
 Ira Hogan.
Vermont Conference.
 Ziba Boynton.

Virginia Conference.
 J G Whitfield,
 R B Thompson.

North Carolina Conference.
 Wm Bellamy, Spier Whitaker,
 Wm H Wills,
 John Paris.

Georgia Conference.
 Matt W Smith

Mississippi Conference.
 Enos Fletcher. N B Whitehead.

Tennessee Conference.
 R W Morris. J L Armstrong.

Louisiana Conference.
 A Rushing.

Huntsville Conference.
 H C Stilwell, H R Beaver.

Maryland Conference.
 F Waters, W Starr,
 E Henkle, A L Withers,
 L R Reese, Thos R Brown,
 J S Reese, J Shriver,
 J Varden, J B Mathews.
 I Webster,
 U Ward,
 J R Williams,
 Dr T Sim.

Some question arose in regard to the constitutionality of admitting alternate delegates to seats. Resolutions and substitutes were offered severally by Brs. Burns, De-ford, L. R. Reese, and Whitefield. The one offered by the last named Br. was finally adopted, providing that alternates furnishing due proofs of their election by an electoral college, shall in the absence of their principals, be admitted to seats in this Conference.

A. H. Bassett introduced the following, which was adopted, without dissenting voice.

Whereas, The Ohio and Indiana Conferences have set apart the day of the assembling of this Conference, as a day of fasting, and prayer to Almighty God, in view of the important interests involved in the deliberations and decisions of this body, Therefore

Resolved, That this General Conference will

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appropriate one hour during the afternoon of this day, to be spent in devotional services, conducted by the President, and that our friends be permitted to attend and participate.

Adjourned, with prayer by Br. U. Ward.

Afternoon Session.

Opened with prayer by Br. G. Brown.

After calling of the roll, on motion Br. Brown, arrangements were made respecting the bar of the Conference, and hours of meeting and adjournment. Hours of meeting, 8, A. M. and 2, P. M. Hours of Adjournment, 12, M. and 5, P. M.

On motion Br. R. M. Dalbey, a committee of 3 was appointed to make appointments for preaching during the session. Brs. Joel and R. M. Dalbey and E. D. Norris were chosen said committee.

On motion Br. Collins, a committee of 3 was appointed to draft rules of order. Brs. G. Brown, J. S. Reese and J. M. Deford were chosen.

On motion Br. Thompson, it was

Resolved, That Br. T. H. Stockton be elected an honorary member of this Conference, and invited to take a seat within the bar.

Agreed, That the election of permanent officers take place at 2 o'clock to-morrow.

Br. Brown, of committee appointed to draft rules of order, reported a recommendation that the rules governing last session of the General Conference be adopted. Agreed to.

A. H. Bassett offered the following:

Resolved, That in accordance with provision of Discipline at page 60, those Annual Conferences which have been organized since last session of the General Conference, be expected without delay to make known the facts and proofs of their legal organization.

Delegates from several new Conference Districts, stating that they were not prepared to report at once, it was on motion of Br. Ragan, agreed that the resolution lie on the table till to-morrow morning.

In accordance with the resolution of the forenoon, at 4 o'clock the business of conference was suspended, and religious exercises were held for more than an hour, conducted by Dr. Waters.

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SECOND DAY.

Wednesday, May 6th.

Conference met this morning, and was opened with religious exercises by Br. F. A. Davis.

After calling of the roll, the minutes of yesterday were read.

Br. Carson moved that the title *Rev.* where it occurs in the minutes be struck out, and that the term be disused in this conference.

Br. Burns moved as an amendment, that the term *brother* be substituted, without distinction. Agreed to.

The motion of Br. C. was discussed at some length, and was finally carried, after an ineffectual effort to have it laid on the table.

Brs. J. R. Williams of the Maryland District, and N. B. Whitehead of the Mississippi District, presented their certificates, and took their seats.

Moved by Br. Wilson that a reporter for the Morning Herald be permitted to occupy a place within the hall. Agreed to.

Conference took into consideration the report of Committee on rules of order. Various amendments were considered and disposed of, and the rules were then adopted.

On motion, the resolution of A. H. Bassett, respecting the recognition of new Conferences, which had been laid on the table, was now taken up. Adopted.

Br. Ragan of Muskingum Conference, presented the evidence of the legal organization of said Conference, whereupon, on motion

Resolved, That the Muskingum Conference be recognized as a component part of the M. P. Church, in connection with this General Conference.

Br. Beaver, in behalf of the Huntsville Conference, presented the like testimony, in reference to said Conference, and a similar resolution was adopted.

Adjourned, with prayer by Br. Fletcher.

Afternoon Session.

Opened with prayer by Br. Whitfield.

On motion, Br. Armstrong, the order of the day was suspended for the purpose of attending to the recognition of new Conferences.

The facts and proofs being presented in reference to the setting off of the N. Illinois and Louisiana Districts, it was on motion resolved, that the N. Illinois and Louisiana Conferences be duly recognized.

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On motion, conference proceeded to take up the order of the day in the election of officers.

Br. Carson moved that a majority of all the votes be required to constitute an election. Agreed to.

After the fourth balloting, it was announced that Dr. Francis Waters of the Maryland Conference was duly elected President, and Brs. J. E. Wilson and A. H. Bassett of the Ohio Conference, Secretaries.

On motion Br. Barker, a Committee on Boundaries was appointed, consisting of one member from each District.

On motion Br. Short, a Committee of 3 was appointed to examine Journals of Annual Conferences.

Br. Clark moved the appointment of a committee of 5 on the Judiciary. Agreed to.

Br. Williams moved that an executive committee consisting of 5 be appointed. Carried.

Moved by Br. Laishley that a Literary Committee of 5 be appointed. Agreed to.

Br. Whitfield moved that a committee of 5 on means of grace be appointed. Carried.

Br. Laishley moved the appointment of a committee of 5 on Finance. Carried.

Br. Morrisson moved that a committee of 5 on Orders be appointed. Agreed to.

Br. Gay moved that a committee be appointed to receive papers on the subject of slavery.

Br. Cowl moved to amend by striking out the word slavery, and that the committee be constituted on memorials generally.

Pending this motion, conference adjourned with prayer by Br. Martin.

THIRD DAY.

Thursday, May 7.

Conference met at 8 o'clock. Services by Br. Boynton.

Certificates of the following named additional delegates were handed in and read, and the brethren took their seats. R. Andrew, ministerial, and J. Bell, lay delegate from Muskingum District; and T. Sim, ministerial, and J. B. Matthews and A. L. Withers, lay representatives from the Maryland District.

Br. Ward, on leave, read from Journals of Maryland Conference resolutions of that body concerning Home Missions, and offered a resolution for reference of the same to a committee, but afterwards withdrew the resolution.

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On motion Br. G. Brown, seconded by Br. Ragan,

Resolved, That all petitions, and other communications from An. Conferences, and other portions of our fellowship, intended for the action of this General Conference, be first presented and read in open Conference, after which such documents may be referred to appropriate Committees.

The resolution of Br. Ward, embracing an amendment by Br. Deford, was then adopted, as follows:

Resolved, That a Committee of seven on Home Missions be now appointed, to whom shall be referred the resolution of Md. Conference, and other papers on the subject.

Br. Stockton then read memorials from four churches in the city of Philadelphia, praying for the establishment of a new An. Conference to be called the Philadelphia Conference with the privilege of establishing permanent pastoral relations.

Br. L. R. Reese then read remonstrances from Philadelphia against the organization of the new Conference.

All the above named papers were then, on motion, referred to the Committee on Home Missions.

On motion Br. Morrison, memorials &c. on the subject of Boundaries of Districts, were next called for.

Memorials upon the subject from the N. Illinois, Indiana and Champlain Districts were then read, and referred to com. on Boundaries.

On motion, Brethren R. Dobbins, J. M. Flood, J. M. Young and Bartholomew of Ohio, J. H. Overstreet of Kentucky, and Wilson of Maryland, were severally invited to seats within the bar.

On motion Br. L. R. Reese.

Resolved, That all ministers and official members of the M. P. Church, who may visit the Conference, be invited to seats within the bar.

Br. Gay, on leave, withdrew his resolution, pending for appointment of a Committee to receive papers in regard to slavery.

On motion Br. L. R. Reese,

Resolved, That the names of the several An. Conference Districts, be called by the secretary immediately after the report of Committees are received, that the Delegates from each Confer-

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ence may present, memorials, and being read in order, they shall then be referred to standing committees or special committees to be appointed.

Adjourned, Prayer by Br. Stockton.

Afternoon, 2 o'clock.

Opening exercises performed by Br. Ragan.

In absence of the President, Br. Ragan was called to take the chair.

Br. Bronson introduced the following, seconded by Br. Kennedy:

Resolved, That this Conference declare slavery or slaveholding to be sinful in all its relations, and that no conference shall be bound to hold fellowship with any conference that sustains slavery.

On motion of Br. Paris, laid on the table.

Br. Deford offered the following, seconded by Br. Beaver:

Resolved, That this Conference regard the efforts of abolitionists and all other attempts to interfere with the slave question, as improper on the part of religious bodies, and an unwarrantable disturbance of the regulations of the civil government.

On motion Br. Starr, laid on the table.

The certificate of Br. Spier Whitaker delegate from North Carolina was presented and read, and the brother took his seat.

On motion Br. J. Dalbey, Br. R. Dobbins was invited to an honorary seat.

The President announced the following committees:

To examine Journals of An. Conferences.—

P. T. Laishley, J. Varden, D. C. Carson.

On Judiciary.—J. S. Reese, R. B. Thompson, J. Clarke, J. H. Deford, J. Foster.

On Executive.—G. Brown, J. R. Williams, Z. Ragan, U. Ward, J. L. Armstrong.

Literary Com.—J. Burns, L. R. Reese, J. R. Williams, F. H. Pierpont, J. B. Matthews.

On Means of Grace.—E. Henkle, W. H. Collins, J. G. Whitfield, A. W. Reatty, W. B. Kerlin.

On Finance.—S. Whitaker, W. Reeves, W. H. Wills, F. A. Davis, I. Shriver.

On Orders.—I. Webster, J. Cowl, J. Gay.

On Home Missions.—J. S. Reese, U. Ward, L. R. Reese, W. Starr, G. Brown, C. Craig, T. Campbell.

On motion Br. Clarke, Agreed, that the com-

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mittee to examine Journals be increased to nine.

Br. J. Dalbey announced an invitation from the Faculty of the Medical College of Ohio, for the members of this conference to visit that Institution, and moved that the invitation be complied with, and that the afternoon of Saturday be appropriated for this purpose. Agreed to.

Br. Williams moved that a committee of 3 be appointed to collect statistical information. Carried.

Br. Fletcher moved the appointment of a committee of 5, to fix the future ratio of representation to the General Conference. Agreed to.

Br. Whitfield offered a resolution to amend the form of Discipline respecting the ceremony of Infant Baptism, and on his motion was referred to committee on Means of Grace.

Br. Martin introduced a resolution for an amendment of the discipline respecting duties of Superintendents, which was on motion referred to committees on Executive and on Means of Grace.

Br. Gay presented and read a resolution to modify the marriage ceremony in Book of Discipline, which was on motion referred to Executive Committee.

Br. Thompson offered the following, seconded by Br. Whitfield, and moved that it be referred to committee on Order, which was agreed to:

Resolved, That this General Conference recognize no other order of ministers than that of Elder, and that the Discipline be so altered as to accord with this doctrine.

The same brother offered a further resolution for amendment of the book of Discipline respecting appointment of class leaders, which was on motion, referred to committee on Executive.

Adjourned with prayer by Br. Thrapp.

FOURTH DAY.

Friday, May 8, 1846.

Conference assembled at 8 o'clock, and opened with religious exercises by Br. Gay.

The certificate of Br. R. W. Morris delegate from Tennessee Conference was read and Br. Morris took his seat.

The Report of the Book Committee was presented and read by Br. Williams, and on motion the report was referred to Literary committee.

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In accordance with previous order, the list of An. Conferences was read and various brethren presented memorials.

A memorial respecting rights of unstationed ministers, signed by John Hill and three other unstationed ministers residing in the Ohio District, was read, and on motion of Br. Carson, referred to committee on Judiciary.

A memorial respecting slavery, from John Hogsett and 30 others of the Ohio District was then read.

On motion Br. Brownson, seconded by Br. Burns,

Resolved, That the memorial with all other memorials and other papers concerning slavery be referred to a special committee of 5.

The resolution, after various attempts to amend, to lay on the table, and to refer to Judiciary Committee, was adopted.

Adjourned—Prayer by Br. I. Webster.

Friday Afternoon 2 o'clock.

Opening exercises conducted by Br. Morrison.

The President being absent, Br. Thompson was called to the chair.

On motion Br. Collins, it was

Resolved, That conference proceed to fill the committee (to receive memorials on slavery) from special advocates of abolition.

Bras. Gay, Clarke, Martin, Andrew and Jeffries, were severally nominated and appointed.

The sec. then read a paper from the Indiana conference, which was on motion, referred in its several parts to the committees on Judiciary, on Executive and to the special com. on slavery.

A paper from Michigan Conference was read, and on motion Br. Whitefield, referred to committee on Judiciary.

A paper from a quarterly conference in Michigan was next read, and on motion referred by parts, to committees on Judiciary and Literature.

A memorial from Iowa city, praying the establishing of a new conference west of the Mississippi river was read, and on motion referred to Com. on Boundaries.

The President announced the names

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of brethren to serve on the following Committees.

To collect statistics, I. Thrap, J. M. Phillips, M. Kennedy.

To fix the future ratio of representation, J. Bell, E. Fletcher T. Simm, D. H. Stephens, A. Rushing.

A paper of instructions by N. Illinois Conference to its delegates was next read, but not being a memorial, it was not referred.

A communication was then read from the delegates elect of the S. Carolina Conference, and on motion, the same was referred to special Committee on slavery.

A communication from that part of the Michigan District which lies within the State of Indiana was read, but not coming in shape of a memorial, no action was had upon it.

A paper was read from Br. Ward, respecting the publication of Br. Snethen's sermons, and on motion referred to literary committee.

A communication was read from delegates elect of the New Jersey Conference.

On motion of Br. Carson, the journals and other documents from N. Jersey were referred to a select committee of 3.

A paper from Muskingum Conference was read, and on motion Br. Stilwell, referred to special committee on Slavery.

Papers from Champlain and Onondaga Districts were read and on motion referred to Com. on Boundaries.

A. H. Bassett offered the following, seconded by Br. Carson.

Resolved, That the Discipline at page 38, ¶ 7 under, 'Trial of Ministers' &c. be amended by inserting after the word superintendent the words, 'or other itinerant minister, not amendable to a quarterly conference.

On motion, referred to judiciary committee.

Br. Paris introduced a resolution embracing a further amendment of the same paragraph of Discipline, by adding a

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clause requiring the President to preside over committees of trial which he may convene, and regulate the proceedings, if present.

On motion, referred to Com. on Judiciary.

A. H. Bassett offered the following, seconded by Br. Wilson.

Resolved, That the Discipline at page 43, first paragraph, under 'quarterly Conference' be amended, by inserting after the word 'business' the following sentence. It shall be the duty of every official member in the circuit or station to attend the regular sessions of the quarterly conference, or communicate by letter the reasons of his absence.

On motion, referred to executive committee.

Br. Whitefield introduced the following, seconded by Br. Thompson.

Resolved, That the judiciary committee be introduced to enquire into the expediency of reporting some plan by which the An. Conference may have an equal number of Delegates, with all ministers belonging thereto, except the President.

On motion, referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Br. Rodman presented the following, seconded by Br. Kerlin.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Conference that all ministers refusing to take appointments from the stationing committee, are not under their authority and are not entitled to seats in the Annual Conference.

On motion, referred to Committee on Judiciary.

Br. Laishley offered the following, seconded by Br. Phillips.

Resolved, That the Discipline, page 46, item 9, be so amended as to read after, 'his appeal is pending' a violation of which shall deprive him of the prosecution thereof, and no person &c.

On motion, referred to Com. on judiciary.

Br. Stephens introduced the following, seconded by Br. Morrison.

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Resolved, That the clause giving officiating ministers the preference at the communion table, as found in the form of the administration of the Lord's supper, Discipline, page 96, be stricken out.

On motion, referred to committee on Means of grace.

Br. Gay offered the following:

Resolved, That the form of communion be so altered that the ministers and brethren commune together.

On motion, referred to Com. on Means of Grace.

On motion Br. Carson, Agreed that a committee of 3 be appointed to examine Journals of last Gen. Conference for unfinished business.

Adjourned--Prayer by Dr. Reese.

FIFTH DAY.

Cincinnati, May 9, 1846.

Conference met at 8 o'clock. Prayer by Br. Morrison.

On motion, Br. Jeffries was appointed to serve on special committee on slavery, and the name of Taylor, (mistake) struck out.

On motion Br. Whitfield, Br. W. J. Holcombe was invited to take an honorary seat.

Br. Waters introduced report of committee of Foreign Correspondence, appointed by last General Conference. The report was read, and on motion of Dr. Waters, referred to Literary Committee.

Br. Deford, from Judiciary Committee presented and read a report upon memorial of unstationed ministers, adverse to the prayer of the memorialists. The report was afterwards re-committed to the Committee.

Same member introduced a further report from same committee in relation to the memorial from Michigan for striking the word 'white' from the Constitution. The report was adverse to the same.

Br. Clarke, from same committee presented and read report of a minority of the Committee, simply setting forth that the proposed alteration of the Constitution has not been called for by two thirds of the And Conferences, thus General Conference has no power to effect what the memorialists require.

The two reports were received, and on motion,

the committee were discharged from further consideration of the subject.

On motion Br. Starr, the memorial was then referred to special Com on slavery.

Br. Thompson, of Committee on Judiciary presented and read the following further report, which after inserting an amending clause, was adopted in the following words.

The Judiciary Committee, respectfully report, That they recommend that the 7th Sec. of that part of the Discipline, under the head of "Trial of ministers" &c. page 38, be amended so as to read

"Should the accused person be the superintendent, or other itinerant minister not amenable to a quarterly conference, the official notifications, appointment of the Committee, and other similar duties shall be performed by the President of the District, or such other minister as he may appoint for the purpose; and over all committees which the President may convene for the trial of any minister, he shall preside as chairman, if present, preserve order, and regulate the proceedings according to the rules of Discipline. If absent, the minister whom he may appoint as his proxy shall preside."

They further report that they have had the resolution of the Indiana An. Conference, in relation to the 'manner of receiving members' under careful consideration, and report adversely, believing the present arrangements in reference to that subject, better than the proposed change.

R. B. THOMPSON,

In behalf of Committees.

The President announced the following additional Committees.

On the N. Jersey Documents—G. Clancy, J. Paris, H. Brownson.

On unfinished business—J. Varden, J. L. Armstrong, T. R. Brown.

Adjourned, with prayer by Br. Gay.

[The Conference held no session in the afternoon of Saturday, in view of visiting the Medical College of Ohio, by invitation of the faculty of that Institution. The visit was highly satisfactory and instructive.]

SIXTH DAY.

Monday, May 11, 1846.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment.
Opening exercises conducted by Br. Wills.

Minutes read, and adopted.

Br. Clancy from special Committee to whom was referred documents from New Jersey, presented and read the report of said Committee recommending the recognition of the New Jersey An Conference. *Adopted.*

On motion Br. Clancy, the letter from delegates elect of the New Jersey Conference, was referred to Committee on Boundaries.

Two papers from the Tennessee District were read by secretary and referred to Committee on Boundaries.

Br. Shont offered a resolution to insert in the general rules a prohibition to buy and sell men and to enslave them. Laid on the table.

Br. Whitfield introduced and read report of Committee on Means of Grace, recommending amendments of Discipline, at pages 100, and 102, in forms of Infant and Adult Baptism. Laid on the table.

The certificate of Dr. O. Springer ministerial delegate from Massachusetts District was read, and he took his seat.

Br. Joel Rice, lay delegate from Illinois District, was also, on motion admitted to his seat.

Br. J. S. Rees, chairman of committee on Home Missions introduced reports of majority and minority of said committee. After the reading of both by secretary, it was agreed that the further consideration be postponed till tomorrow afternoon, in view of having the reports printed.

Br. G. Brown, at his request was excused from serving on Committee on Executive, and Br. Springer appointed to fill the vacancy.

Br. Deford offered a resolution, deprecating the "extremes to which the abolitionists are carrying their opposition to slavery." Laid on the table.

Br. Williams submitted sundry amendments to the Discipline, in regard to the publication of books and periodicals, and moved that they be referred to Literary Committee. Agreed to.

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A communication from Mr. J. J. Harrod was read, and also so referred.

Br. Williams offered the following.

Resolved, That the Discipline at p 57, be amended by inserting after the word 'entitled' the following. 'In every instance where a District may be entitled to more than one ministerial representative, one half the representation on the part of the ministry, shall consist as nearly as possible of one half itinerant, and the other half unstationed ministers.

Referred to Judiciary Committee.

Br. Williams offered a resolution embracing an amendment of Discipline, at page 49, respecting transfer of ministers, which was on motion, referred to Judiciary Committee.

Br. Henkle submitted a resolution to amend the Discipline at page 63. 'Duties of Superintendents,' so as to read, 'To visit all the classes at least once a quarter if practicable in stations, and always in circuits either before or after preaching where circumstances will admit,' &c. Referred to Judiciary Committee.

Br. Henkle likewise offered four resolutions embracing disciplinary amendments, which were severally referred to Executive Committee.

One to modify the rule respecting election of class leaders. Page 81.

Another, respecting duty of Superintendents, to give due notice of Quarterly meetings.

Another, in reference to giving certificates to those in good standing.

And a fourth, making an additional duty of Superintendents, to read the General Rules and the article on Public Worship, twice a year in the societies, the Elementary Principles and Constitution, once a year in every congregation.

Some member then offered two further resolutions, which were referred to Literary Committee.

The first, directing that the Elementary Principles, and Constitution be hereafter printed in *Italics*.

The second, that the General Rules be inserted in Roman characters under Art. 2, of the Constitution.

Br Henkle also offered one other resolution, which was afterwards withdrawn.

Adjourned with prayer by Br. J. S. Reese.

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Afternoon session, 2 o'clock.

Opening exercises conducted by Br. Rice.

Rev. Mr. Chidlaw Agent for American S. S. Union, was on motion, permitted to address the conference for a short time, on the claims of the Sunday School Cause.

Br. Carson offered the following:

Resolved, That the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to enquire into the propriety of altering the rule of Discipline on the duty of Trustees, page 70, so as to give the society the power to fill all vacancies. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

Br. Whitfield offered resolutions providing for the appointment of a committee to write a History of the M. P. Church, which were on motion, referred to Committee on Literature.

Br. Beatty offered a resolution in reference to establishing disciplinary rules for the more efficient organization of the churches. Referred to a select committee of three.

Br. J. S. Reese, from the Committee on the Judiciary submitted report, which was read and discussed by items, and adopted as follows.

1. That the resolution referred to them, respecting the removal of a minister from a station or circuit where he was laboring the year immediately preceding has been before us and it is our judgment that no change should be made at present.

2. That the Res. referred respecting the appeal in case of suspended ministers has been considered, and your committee are of opinion that it would be better to let the Discipline remain as it now is.

3. Your Committee are of opinion, after due examination, that the proposition to report a plan by which the An. Conferences may have an equal number of delegates with all ministers belonging thereto is fully provided for by the 4th Sec. of 7th Art. of the Constitution.

4. The Res. referred in relation to refusing to take an appointment from the Annual Conference was under review, and it is our opinion that no change is necessary.

JOHN S. REESE Chm.

Br. Morris offered a resolution instructing the Judiciary Committee to enquire into propriety

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of a change of the Discipline in reference to the expulsion of a member for neglect of class meeting.

Referred to Judiciary Committee.

A communication was read from Br. T. F. Norris, delegate elect of the Boston District, enclosing proceedings of Boston An. Conference.

The paper in its several parts was referred to special Com. on Slavery, Literary Committee, and Committee on Orders.

On motion Br. Bassett, seconded by Br. Wilson.

Resolved, That the committees on Boundaries be instructed to enquire into the proofs of the legal organization of the Maine An. Conference.

While this resolution was pending, the hour of adjournment arrived.

The President announced the special committee on the resolution of Br. Beatty, ordered this morning. A. W. Beatty, W. B. Kerlin, J. Dalbey, Jr.

Adjourned. Prayer by Br. Springer.

SEVENTH DAY.

Tuesday, May 12, 1846.

Conference met at 8 o'clock. Prayer by Br. Bellamy.

Minutes read and adopted.

Br. Springer from Committee on Executive presented and read a report, which was afterwards on his motion, laid upon the table.

Br. J. S. Reese, from Committee on Judiciary submitted a further report of said committee, which was on motion, laid on the table.

Br. Laishley, from Committee on Journals made report, that the Journals of ten named Annual Conferences had been fully examined, and asked to be discharged from further inspecting them. Agreed to.

Br. Deford from Com. on Judiciary, read report of Com. relative to the proportions of itinerant and unstationed ministers to be chosen as delegates to General Conference. Laid on the table.

Same member, in behalf of same committee submitted further report in reference to memorial of unstationed ministers. Com. discharged.

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Referred to Judiciary Committee.

A communication was read from Br. T. F. Norris, delegate elect of the Boston District, enclosing proceedings of Boston An. Conference.

The paper in its several parts was referred to special Com. on Slavery, Literary Committee, and Committee on Orders.

On motion Br. Bassett, seconded by Br. Wilson.

Resolved, That the committee on Boundaries be instructed to enquire into the proofs of the legal organization of the Maine An. Conference.

While this resolution was pending, the hour of adjournment arrived.

The President announced the special committee on the resolution of Br. Beatty, ordered this morning. A. W. Beatty, W. B. Kerlin, J. Dalbey, Jr.

Adjourned. Prayer by Br. Springer.

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Same member, in behalf of same committee submitted further report in reference to memorial of unstationed ministers. Com. discharged.

from further consideration of the subject, and report laid on the table.

Br. Clark from select committee on slavery, presented and read a report, which was laid upon the table, and made the order of the day tomorrow afternoon.

Br. Bell, of Committee to fix ratio of representation, to General Conference, submitted report recommending that two thousand be inserted instead of one thousand, in Constitution, Art. 8. Laid on the table.

Br. Whitfield, from committee on Means of Grace, submitted further report, which being read, was on motion, laid upon the table.

The list of Conferences was called, and a communication with sundry documents from J. L. Chapman, of S. Carolina, handed in. Referred to a select committee of three.

The chair appointed Brs. Lashley, Whitaker and Bell,

Conference resumed the consideration of the resolution of Br. Springer, pending at last adjournment. After some discussion, the vote was taken and the resolution lost.

The following resolutions introduced by Br. Thompson, were adopted.

Resolved, That the Article headed, "Regulations for the government of Electoral Colleges," page 57, be amended by inserting, after the words, 'may be entitled,' also, if necessary, an equal number of ministerial and lay alternates, to serve in the event of any disability on the part of the original delegates to do so.

Resolved, That the second paragraph, of the article headed 'Annual Conference,' page 48, be amended by adding, after the word 'delegates' or alternates who have been elected to serve in the stead of delegates.

Br. Thompson also offered a resolution, instructing the Financial Committee to enquire into the expediency of establishing some rule for fixing and raising the allowance of Presidents of An. Conferences.

Referred to com. on Finance.

Conference resumed consideration of Executive Committee's Report.

An amendment to the preamble was offered by Br. L. R. Reese.

Preamble and amendment, laid on the table,

and the rest of the report considered by items.

The motion to adopt the first item, in reference to prerogatives of the President, was negatived.

The second item, advising that no change be made in the rule for appointing class leaders, was adopted.

The third item, advising no amendment of rule at page 61, sec. 4. respecting superintendents giving notice, was adopted.

The fourth item recommending no action on the proposition of Br. Henkle to modify the rule for giving certificates, was adopted.

The fifth item, adverse to the proposition of Br. Henkle for an additional duty of Superintendents, was under discussion when

Conference adjourned. Prayer by Br. Bellamy.

Afternoon Session, 2 o'clock, May 12.

Religious exercises conducted by Br. Ragan.

Conference took up the order of the day, to wit, the consideration of reports of majority and minority of Committee on Home Missions.

The two reports were read as follows:

MAJORITY REPORT.

The undersigned having maturely considered the request of the Maryland Annual Conference to review the rules of Home Missions and define explicitly their meaning, beg leave to make respectfully the following report. We deeply regret that we cannot agree in opinion with the remaining members of the committee on Missions.

It is the judgment of the undersigned that the meaning of the Home Mission Rule page 11 Discipline, passed at the General Conference of 1834 and amended at the General Conference of 1838 is as follows, viz: A regulation whereby an Annual Conference may raise societies for the purpose of forming Circuits and Stations in any unoccupied portions of its territory, whether city, town or country, which it may designate as fields of labor, and for no other purpose whatever.

We are also of the opinion that the

Rule on Home Missions is not defined with sufficient clearness to harmonize the views of all persons in its interpretation, and therefore respectfully recommend to the Conference to amend the Rule so that it shall read as follows:

HOME MISSIONARIES.

Each Annual Conference shall have authority to appoint ministers and preachers to serve as Home Missionaries in such unoccupied portions of its territory whether city, town or country as it may

designate as their fields of labor, and also to change said ministers. It shall be the duty of each Home Missionary to travel and preach the gospel in such parts of the district as his Conference may direct and raise societies—he shall take collections for his own support in societies and neighborhoods where he may labor, and shall be entitled to a proportionate part of the funds of the Annual Conference raised for missionary purposes to make up his deficiencies. It shall be the duty of each missionary to appear at the Annual Conference of his district, and may be accompanied by laymen appointed by the society or societies to make such communication to the Conference as may be deemed necessary, and report the number and condition of the societies he may have raised.

Such missionary fields being fields of labor where societies are not formed of sufficient number or strength to perform the functions of a Circuit or Station, are not to be considered under the Restrictive Rule of VII. Sec. X, Art. of Constitution: Provided, however, that when a society or societies shall have been raised containing in the aggregate 30 members, the Annual Conference shall form such society or societies into a Circuit or Station.

LEVI R. REESK,
WESLEY STARR,
GEO. BROWN,
CHA'S. CRAIG.

MINORITY REPORT.

The Committee on Missions beg leave respectfully to report in part, that, having had in consideration the first request in the resolution of the Maryland Annual Conference, viz., 'for this General Conference to review the rules respecting 'Home Missions,' and 'define explicitly their meaning,' and having carefully examined said rules for this purpose,

We are convinced that while the 7th section of the 10th article of the Constitution plainly restricts the General Conference from the passage of any rule 'to abolish an efficient itinerant ministry, or to authorize the Annual Conference to station their ministers and preachers any longer than three years successively in the same circuit, and two years successively in the same station;' the General Conference is nevertheless empowered by the 1st section of the 9th article of the Constitution, to make rules and regulations for the missionary department of the church, without regard to said restriction, and that the provision made for 'Home Missions' by the General conferences of 1834 and 1838, as found on pages 71 and 72 of the discipline, is to be understood as authorizing the Annual Conference to create 'Home Missions,' and to appoint ministers or preachers without any other limitation than the Conferences themselves may judge expedient.

JOHN S. REESE, Chairman,

U. WARD,

THOMAS CAMPBELL.

Moved by Br. Starr, that the report of majority be adopted.

The Conference were occupied with the discussion of this motion until adjournment. Br. L. R. Reese, Ward, Starr, Collins, Campbell, and Stockton took part in the debate.

Adjourned, with prayer by Br. Bellamy.

EIGHTH DAY.

Wednesday, May 13.

Conference met at 8 o'clock, and organized with prayer by Br. Burns.

The consideration of the report of majority of Committee on Home Missions, was resumed. The discussion occupied entire the forenoon and afternoon sessions. Much interest was excited, and a great number of ladies and citizens were present. Brethren, Deford, Stockton, Williams, Whitfield, Campbell, Varden, and L. R. Reese, with others took part in the debate.

In the afternoon, the consideration of the report on slavery, which had been made the order of the day, was deferred, in order to dispose of the question of home missions. But before the vote was taken the evening adjournment took place.

NINTH DAY.

Thursday, May 14, 1846.

Conference met at 8 o'clock. Exercises by Br. Whitfield.

After reading and approval of the minutes.

Br. Springer from committee on Executive submitted further report of said committee, which was on motion, laid on the table.

Br. Whitaker from Committee on Finance, read a report, which was on motion, laid on the table.

Br. Webster, from Committee on orders submitted a report, which was laid on the table.

Conference resumed the consideration of the report on Home Missions under consideration at last adjournment.

The question being on the amendment of Br. Armstrong, Br. Whitaker in the chair.

Br. Waters moved to lay on the table, for the purpose of introducing a substitute for Report of Majority of Committee. Agreed to.

Br. W. read his substitute, and moved its adoption.

Verbal amendments offered by Brs. Thompson and Collins were agreed to.

Br L. R. Reese offered the following as an amendment to the substitute.

"Provided, when there shall be one or more societies raised by said missionary, containing in the aggregate—members, having in the judgment of the Annual Conference, sufficient pecuniary resources to maintain its itinerant minister or ministers, the An. Conference shall change said mission into a circuit or station."

The vote on this amendment was taken by ayes and nays, and resulted as follows:

Yeas, F A Davis, C Springer, J Clarke, W H Collins, W Bellamy, R W Morris, H C Stilwell, E Henkle, L R Reese, J Varden, J R Williams, F H Peirpoint, J W Phillips, C Craig, S Rodman, J Foster, D C Carson, S Whitaker, W B Whitehead, H R Beaver, W Starr, I Shriver, J Rice.—23.

Nays, G Brown, W Reese, P T Laishley, J Cowl, Z Ragan, J Dalbey, J Burns, G Clancy, R Andrew, I Thrapp, A H Bassett, R M Dalbey, J White, J E Wilson, D H Stephens, S Morrison, C Jeffries, W E Martin, J Gay, S V Short, I Hogan, Z Boynton, J G Whitfield, R B Thompson, W H Wills, Paris, M W Smith, E Fletcher, A Rushing, B Waters, J S Reese, I Webster, U Ward, T Simm, J H Deford, J Bell, W B Kerlin, M Campbell, A W Beatty, M Kennedy, Wm Smith, O R Rice, S Turner, H Brownson, D Upton, J L Armstrong, A L Withers, J B Matthews.—42.

So, the amendment was lost.

The vote was then taken on the adoption of the substitute of Dr. Waters, and the result was as follows.

MINISTERS.

Yeas Brown, Reeves, Laishley, Cowl, Springer, Ragan, J Dalbey, Burns Clancy, Andrew, Thrapp, Bassett, R M Dalbey, White, Wilson, Stephens, Morrison, Jeffries, Clarke, Collins, Martin, Gay, Short, Hogan, Boynton, Whitfield, Thompson, Bellamy, Wills, Paris, Smith of Ga Fletcher, Morris, Rushing, Waters, Henkle, J S Reese, Varden, Webster, Ward, Williams, Simm.—42

Nays, Davis, Stilwell, L R Reese.—

LAYMEN.

Yeas. Deford, Phillips, Bell, Rodman, Kerlin, Campbell, Beatty, Kennedy, Smith, of Ia. C. Rice, Turner, Brownson, Upton, Armstrong, Withers, Shriver, Matthews. — 17.

Nays. Pierpoint, Craig, Foster, Carson, Whitaker, Whitehead, Beaver, Starr, J. Rice. — 9.

Total, yeas, 59 — Nays, 12.

So, the substitute of Dr. Waters was adopted, as follows:

"A regulation under which, an Annual Conference may appoint missionaries of ministers or preachers under its control, to preach the gospel in any unoccupied portions of its District, for the purpose of raising societies, to be placed under appropriate disciplinary government, until they are fit, in the judgment of the conference, to be organized into regular Circuits or Stations.

"Each Annual Conference shall have authority to employ and appoint its ministers or preachers to serve as Home Missionaries in any unoccupied portions of its District, for the purpose of preaching the gospel therein, and raising societies, with a view to the formation of new stations and circuits, under the Constitution and Discipline of this Church. The Conference shall have authority also to prescribe the duties of the missionaries, so employed, to provide for their support, and in case of deficiencies, to allow them a proportionate part of the funds of the An. Conference, raised for missionary purposes. The Conference shall further, have authority to change the appointments of said missionaries, at its annual sessions, or continue them, as the Conference shall judge best. 2. To require of the missionaries to make regular reports, at said sessions, of the success, and progress of their labors, as to the societies they have collected, and any other objects connected with their missions. And, lastly, to prescribe such rules and regulations for

the temporary government of said societies, in conformity to the constitution and Discipline of the M. P. Church, as the conference shall deem best, until the conference shall in its judgment of their circumstances decide to set them off and organize them into regular stations or circuits."

Adjourned, with prayer by Br. Martin.

Afternoon, Thursday May 14.

Conference met at 2 o'clock. Exercises conducted by Br. Kerlin.

Br. L. R. Reese presented a written statement in explanation of his vote yesterday, and asked that it be entered upon the Journals, and his request was granted.

The consideration of Report of select committee on Slavery was resumed.

REPORT.

The committee to whom was referred the subject of Slavery, with sundry memorials, resolutions, &c., relating thereto, have had the subject under consideration, and as the result of their investigation, beg leave to submit the following, as report in part—

1. The following Annual Conferences have recommended to this General Conference to strike out the word 'white' where it occurs in the constitution of the church, viz: Muskingum, Pittsburgh, Ohio, Genesee, Onondaga, Boston, New York, Vermont, Michigan, Indiana, and North Illinois—in all, eleven. The constitution requires the recommendation of two thirds of all the Annual Conferences to empower this body to make any alterations in its provisions; the above number being but little over one third, this General Conference has no power to make the proposed alteration.

2. The petition of 32 members of the Ohio District, and the resolutions and instructions of the Michigan, Ohio, Indi:

ana, Genesee, Onandaga, and North Illinois Annual Conferences, ask for direct action against slaveholding as an offence condemned by the Word of God, and the adoption of disciplinary measures for the exclusion of the practice from the church.

3. The action of the South Carolina Annual Conference, which has been referred to your committee, asks for no change in the constitution, and refers to its own action at a previous session, and a pamphlet entitled 'Slavery Defended from the Scriptures,' &c., by Rev. A. McCaine, as expressive of the views which it is desired should obtain in this body; but your committee have not been put in possession of the documents referred to.

In view of the above memorial, recommendations, &c., your committee would present, that the subject is not only one of exciting interest but in their opinion of vast moment to the peace, integrity and prosperity of the church, and demands the impartial and most serious consideration of this General Conference. Your committee are of opinion that this only is not prohibited the *liberty of speech* or the *right of judgment* in relation to any subject that concerns the glory of God and the good of man, however it may be restricted in legislative action by the constitution of the church, and that it is legitimate in the province of this General Conference to bear explicit testimony against any evil that may threaten the peace or integrity of the church. Your committee are farther of opinion, that the time has fully come for this body to declare its testimony in unequivocal language upon the subject, and that circumstances of an imperious nature demand it. To demonstrate the correctness of this opinion, we think it only necessary to advert to the deep and extensive disaffection that so painfully manifests itself among the membership of the church on this subject.

— the antagonistical elements and interests that by it are brought in contact. If the practice of slaveholding, as it obtains among many of the ministers and members of the church, be morally right, your committee think this body competent to give it their sanction, and sympathies and prayers in a manner promotive of its prosperity against the opposition of its assailants. If it be morally wrong, it belongs to the church, in its representative character, here to answer the petitions, and take decisive measures to purge herself from a practise so criminal.

Your committee further presents, that a large portion of the membership of the church do hold their fellow men—their brothers and sisters in the church—as property, and use them as beasts of burden and articles of trade; while, on the other hand, a large portion regard with feelings of the utmost abhorrence, the practice which under the sanction of civil law, reduced those of their own species, brothers and sisters, to brutality, and makes their chattels personal. In view of this existing state of things, the committee recommend the adoption of the following:

Resolved, That the practice of buying or selling men, women or children, with the intention of enslaving them, or holding them in involuntary slavery, is, in the judgment of this General Conference, an offence condemned by the word of God.

JAMES GAY,
JNO. CLARKE,
ROBERT ANDREW,
CYRUS JEFFRIES,
WM. E. MARTIN.

The question being on adoption of the resolution with which the report of the committee closes.

Br. Burns moved to amend the same by inserting after the words 'involuntary slavery' these words, 'where emancipation is practicable.'

The amendment was accepted by the Committee, and the question arose upon the adoption of the resolution as amended, as follows:

Resolved That the practice of buying or selling men, women or children, with the intention of enslaving them, or holding them in involuntary slavery where emancipation is practicable, is in the judgment of this General Conference, an offence condemned by the word of God."

Pending the consideration of this resolution, the Conference adjourned. Prayer by Br. Kennedy.

TENTH DAY.

Friday May 15, 1846.

Conference met at 8 o'clock. Exercises by Br. Reeves.

The minutes of yesterday having been read and approved.

Br. Laishley, from committee to whom was referred the case of James L. Chapman, submitted report, representing that the General Conference has no jurisdiction in the case, and asked to be discharged. Laid on the table.

Br. Thompson, from Committee on Boundaries submitted and read report in part, of said committee. Laid on the table.

Conference then on motion resumed the consideration of the resolution contained in the Report of Committee on slavery.

Br. J. Dalbey offered an amendment to the resolution. But the Chair regarding it as a substitute, it was not entertained.

The Conference was occupied with the discussion of the resolution until the hour of adjournment.

Closing prayer by Br. Paris.

Afternoon Session, May 15.

Conference assembled at 2 o'clock. Prayer by Br. Carson.

Br. H. Snowden, alternate delegate of Ohio District appeared, and on motion,

was admitted to his seat instead of Br. A. Jones, his principal, who is not in attendance.

The entire afternoon session was occupied with debate on the resolution on slavery.

And before the question was disposed of, Conference adjourned, Prayer by Br. Webster.

ELEVENTH DAY.

Cincinnati, Saturday, May 16, 1846.

Opening exercises, 8 o'clock conducted by Br. Wilson.

After the reading and approval of the minutes,

Br. Burns, from Literary Committee presented and read report of said committee, which was on motion, laid on the table.

Conference then resumed the consideration of the resolution reported by select Committee on Slavery.

After some discussion, Br. Springer moved that the resolution be laid upon the table, with a view to the introduction of sundry resolutions, which he read.

After a considerable range of debate, the previous question was called for, and sustained by the Conference.

The yeas and nays being called for, upon the motion to lay on the table, the result was as follows:

Yeas. G. Brown, F. A. Davis, C. Springer, I. Thrapp, W. H. Collins, J. G. Whitefield, R. B. Thompson, W. Bellamy, W. H. Wills, J. Paris, Smith, of Ga., E. Fletcher, R. W. Morris, H. C. Stillwell, F. Waters, E. Henkle, J. S. Reese, L. R. Reese, J. Vaden, I. Webster, U. Ward, J. B. Williams, T. Ship, J. H. DeFord, C. Craig, S. Rodman, W. B. Kerlin, C. Rice, S. Whitaker, N. B. Whitehead, J. L. Armstrong, W. Starr, J. Shriver, J. B. Matthews, J. Rice, — 35 —

Nays. W. Reeves, P. T. Laishley, J. Cowl, Z. Ragan, J. Dalbey, J. Barnes, G. Clancy, R. Andrew, A. H. Bassett, R. M. Dalbey, J. White, J. E. Wilson, J. H. Stephens, G. Jeffries, J. Clarke, W. E.

Martin, J Gay, S M Short, I Hogan, Z Boynton, F H Pierpoint, J W Phillips, A W Beatty, J Foster, M Kennedy, W Smith, of Ia. S Turner, H Brownson, D Upton, H R Beazer, H Snowden.—31.

So, the resolution was laid upon the table.

Adjourned. Prayer by Br. Bassett.

2 o'clock, P. M. May 16.

Opening religious services conducted by Br. Rodman.

Br J. S. Reese presented and read the following resolution.

Resolved, That in the judgment of this General Conference, the holding of slaves is under many circumstances, a sin against God; and in such cases should be condemned by the Methodist Protestant Church; nevertheless, it is our opinion that under some circumstances it is not sinful. This General Conference does not feel authorized by the constitution to legislate on the subject of slavery, and by a solemn vote, we present to the church our judgment, that the different Annual Conferences respectively should make their own regulations upon this subject, so far as authorized by the Constitution.

Substitutes were read by Brs. E. Henkle and L. R. Reese.

Br. Springer moved that the resolution of Br. J. S. Reese (above) be adopted.

After some debate, it was agreed that the same be divided, and the several propositions acted upon separately.

The yeas and nays were called for, and being taken, the following is the result.

1st. Division. "Resolved, That in the judgment of this General Conference, the holding of slaves is under many circumstances, a sin against God."

Yeas. Brown, Reeves, Laisley, Cowl, Springer, Ragan, J Dalbey, Burns, Clancy, Andrew, Thrapp, Bassett, R M Dalbey, White, Wilson, Stephens, Jeffries, Clarke, Collins, Martin, Gay, Short, Hogan, Boynton, Thompson, Bahamy, Parris, Fletcher, Morris, Stillwell, Waters, Henkle, J S Reese, L R Reese, Webster, Ward, Williams, Sim, Deford, Pierpoint, Craig, Rod-

man, Beatty, Foster, Carson, Smith, of Ia. Turner, Brownson, Upton, Whitaker, Starr, Shriver, Matthews, J. Rice.—54.

Nays. Whitehead, Wills, Smith, of Ga. Kerlin, Whitehead, Armstrong, Beaver.—7.

2nd. Division. 'And in such cases should be condemned by the Meth. Protestant Church.' Adopted, *viva voce*.

3d. Division. 'Nevertheless, It is our opinion, that under some circumstances, it is not sinful.'

Yeas. Brown, Reeves, Laishley, Cowl, Springer, Ragan, J. Dalbey, Burns, Clancy, Thrapp, Bassett, R. M. Dalbey, Collins, Boynton, Whitfield, Thompson, Bellamy, Wills, Paris, Smith, of Ga. Fletcher, Morris, Stillwell, Waters, Henkle, J. S. Reese, L. R. Reese, Webster, Ward, Williams, Sim, Deford, Pierpoint, Craig, Rodman, Beatty, Foster, C. Rice, Whitaker, Whitehead, Armstrong, Starr, Shriver, Matthews, J. Rice.—45.

Nays. Stephens, Jeffries, Clarke, Martin, Gay, Short, Hogan, Kerlin, Smith, of Ia. Brownson, Upton.—11.

4th Division. "This General Conference, does not feel authorized by the Constitution to legislate on the subject of slavery, and by a solemn vote, we present to the Church, our judgment, that the different Annual Conferences respectively should make their own regulations on this subject so far as authorized by the Constitution."

Yeas. Brown, Reeves, Laishley, Cowl, Springer, Ragan, J. Dalbey, Burns, Clancy, Thrapp, Collins, Whitfield, Thompson, Bellamy, Wills, Paris, Smith, of Ga. Fletcher, Morris, Stillwell, Waters, Henkle, J. S. Reese, L. R. Reese, Varden, Webster, Ward, Williams, Sim, Deford, Pierpoint, Craig, Rodman, Kerlin, Beatty, Foster, C. Rice, Whitaker, Whitehead, Armstrong, Beaver, Starr, Shriver, Matthews, J. Rice.—46.

Nays. Andrew, Bassett, R. M. Dalbey, White, Wilson, Stephens, Jeffries, Clarke, Martin, Gay, Short, Hogan, Boynton, Smith, of Ia. Brownson, Upton.—16.

So the resolution offered by Dr. Reese was adopted.

Br. Catron, by reason of family affliction, asked and obtained leave of absence, for ballance of the session.

On motion Br. Bassett, the report of Committee on Boundaries was recommitted to the committee, with instructions to perfect the report.

Adjourned. Benediction by the President.

TWELFTH DAY.

Monday, 8 o'clock, May 18, 1846.

Opening religious exercises by Br. Springer.

Br. Burns of Literary Committee submitted report of said committee, which was on motion, laid on the table.

Br. Gay, from Committee on Slavery presented a report, but as it did not have reference to memorials or papers referred to them, the Chair deemed it out of order.

Br. Clarke, from same committee, read a report upon the pamphlet of Mr. McCaine in defence of slavery, to them referred. Laid on the table.

Br. Whitfield, offered a resolution, prohibiting the introduction of any further motions, resolutions, or papers, touching the subject of slavery or abolition, during the present session. Laid on the table.

Conference took up report of Book Committee, and before any action was had upon it,

Adjourned, Prayer by Br. Fletcher.

Afternoon Session, May 18.

Religious exercises by Br. Cowl.

The consideration of report of Literary Committee was resumed.

After a discussion at some length, the report was laid on the table.

On motion Dr. Reese,

Resolved, That it is our opinion, that the church periodical should be continued, and remain under the control of the General Conference.

Br. Pierpoint was, on motion, elected Assistant Secretary.

Adjourned, Prayer by Br. Fletcher.

Night Session, May 18.

Opening religious exercises by Br. Henkle.

Conference, took into consideration that portion of report of Literary Committee which refers to the church periodical.

The said portion of the report was adopted.

Br. Springer moved that the Church paper be continued in Baltimore.

This motion was discussed at considerable length, and then adopted.

Adjourned. Prayer by Br. Stockton.

THIRTEENTH DAY.

Tuesday, May 19, 1846.

Conference met at 8 o'clock. Exercises by Br. Stilwell.

Br. Thompson of Committee on Boundaries; submitted report, which was read, and laid on the table.

Br. L. R. Reese from Committee on Home Missions submitted report of majority of said Committee. Laid on the table.

Br. J. S. Reese, from same Committee submitted Report of minority.

Laid on the table.

Conference resumed consideration of report of Literary Committee.

The recommendations of Br. Williams, were considered by items, eight in number, embracing alterations of the Discipline at pages, 131, 132, 133, respecting the publication of Books and periodical, and were severally adopted.

A resolution was then passed requiring the directory to send their minutes to the General Conference, for inspection.

On motion Br. Bassett,

Resolved, That that the Book Committee be instructed to enquire into the expediency of establishing a western branch of the Book Concern, or at least a permanent agency, at some suitable point, for the purpose of facilitating the distribution of the books of our Church in the West.

On motion Br. Bassett,

Resolved, That Br. Wilson be appointed a committee of one to record in a suitable book the Journals of the several sessions of the General Conference, for which he shall be entitled to a due recompense by the Book Committee.

Adjourned, with prayer.

Afternoon Session, May 19th.

Conference met. Prayer by Br. Thrap.

Br. Wilson declined serving as recorder of the Journals.

Moved by Br. Davis that this matter be referred to the Book Committee. Agreed to.

Conference proceeded to election of Editor and Book Agent, by ballot.

D. B. Dorsey received 15; Br. E. Y. Reese, 25; Br. W. S. Stockett, 8; Br. Beaver, 1.

On motion Br. Brown, Conference proceeded to choose by ballot the place for holding next session of the General Conference.

Baltimore, Md. Lynchburg, Va. and Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Allegheny Pa., were nominated.

On the second balloting, it appeared that Baltimore received the majority of votes, and Baltimore was declared duly chosen.

On motion Br. Wilson,

Resolved that the thanks of this Conference be tendered to the citizens of Cincinnati, for their kindness and hospitality in entertaining its members.

Adopted unanimously, by rising vote.

Dr. Waters offered the following preamble and resolutions which were unanimously adopted by rising vote.

"NICHOLAS SNETHEN."

"Whereas, in the dispensations of an allwise and gracious Providence, this great and good man of God, since the last session of the General Conference, has been called away from the labors of time to the rewards of eternity, and whereas, it behoves this conference, in the recollection of his many and eminent virtues, to take some appropriate and respectful notice of his worthy and estimable character, therefore,

"Resolved, 1. That in the opinion of this General Conference, the late Rev. N. Snethen, for power and originality of intellect, fullness of literary and theological attainments, ability and accomplishments as a writer, and effectiveness and spiritual unction as a preacher, he seems to rank amidst the first and most distinguished lights of the American pulpit.

"Resolved, 2. That his deep and consistent piety as a Christian, and his many personal and refined accomplishments as a gentleman, beaming out, as they ever did, with a uniform,

and steady lustre in all his religious and social intercourse, were strikingly impressive and beautiful, and shall be faithfully reposed in our fondest recollections.

Resolved, 3 That the name of *N. Snethen* yet lives—can never die—and is an endearing monument of priceless value to his beloved and sorrowing children, to whom above all others, he was most dear, and also a treasure of inestimable worth, ever to be preserved, and regarded with a common and filial respect and solicitude, by the whole church for whose welfare and prosperity, he continued to labor to the end of life, with an unwearied zeal and affection.

Resolved, 4. That these resolutions, by request of the Conference be published in the *Methodist Protestant*, and in the other periodicals of the church.

On motion *Br. Bassett*.

Resolved. That the thanks of this Conference be tendered to the President and faculty of the *Medical College of Ohio*, for their courtesy to its members in inviting them to visit that institution.

Adjourned, with prayer.

Night session May 19th.

Conference met at 7½ P. M. Opening exercises by *Br. Reeves*.

The consideration of reports on Home Missions was resumed.

On motion, *Br. Thompson*, both reports (majority and minority) were laid on the table.

Br. Thompson offered the following,

Resolved, by the General Conference that all that part of the State of Pennsylvania, east of the Susquehanna river, not included in the Pennsylvania District, excepting Hummelstown Mission, be set off as a new District, to be called the Philadelphia District.

On the passage of this resolution, the yeas and nays were called for, and the following was the result.

Yeas, *Reeves, Davis, Cowl, J. Dalbey, Clancy, Thrapp, Bassett, R. M. Dalbey, White, Wilson, Stephens, Jeffries, Martin, Gay, Short, Hogan, Boynton, Thompson, Bellamy, Wells, Paris, Smith of Ga. Fletcher, Stilwell, Waters, Reese, Webster, Sim, Beatty, Smith of Ia. C. Rice, Brownson, Upton, Armstrong, Mathews.*—35.

Nays. Springer, Henkle, L. R. Reese, J. R. Williams, Varden, Rodman, Foster, Whitaker, Beaver, Starr, J. Rice, Collins.—12.

On motion Br. Sim, the action of to day in reference to salary of the Editor and Book Agent, was reconsidered.

Same Br. moved that he receive a salary of not less than \$900 per year. Agreed to.

The report of Committee on Boundaries was taken up, and acted upon by items. The boundaries of most of the Districts remain as heretofore.

The Champlain District was on motion, dissolved.

A new district was established in Florida, called the Florida District.

A new district was established in Iowa Territory, called the Iowa District.

On motion Br. Stephens.

Resolved, That the Indiana District be divided as follows: the division line to be the Cumberland Road from the Ohio State line to Indianapolis, thence west with the road leading through Danville, Rockville and Montezuma, to the Illinois State line, the north part to be called the Wabash District, the southern part to be called the Indiana District.—The towns on the line to be included in the Wabash District.

On motion Br. Stephens, the Wabash Annual Conference is directed to hold its first session at Pleasant Hill meeting house on Wabash Circuit, Tippecanoe Co. Ia. commencing Sept. 16th 1846.

On motion Br. Collins, the Iowa Annual Conference is directed to hold its first session in Iowa City, on the second Tuesday of October, 1846.

So, the Annual Conference Districts are 30 in number, as follows, Maine, Boston, Vermont, New York, Onondaga, Genesee, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Virginia, N. Carolina, S. Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, N. Illinois, Iowa, Ohio, Moskingum, Pittsburgh, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Huntsville, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Maryland, Philadelphia, and Wabash.

The report of Committee to fix future ratio of representation to General Conferences was called up.

The Committee recommend that the VIII. Art. of Constitution be amended by striking out 1000 and inserting 2000 members.

On motion Br. G. Brown, the report was amended by striking out 2000 and inserting 1500, and the report, so amended was adopted.

Br. J. Dalbey moved that the Discipline, page 61, 5th item, 3d line, be so amended as to read after the word 'quarterly, in stations. Agreed to.

Br. Stephens introduced and read a protest of several brethren against the action of this conference respecting slavery, which was accordingly entered upon the Journals. Signed by J. Gay, R. Andrew, J. Clarke, C. Jeffries, D. H. Stephens, W. Smith, D. Upton, S. M. Short, H. Brownson, W. E. Martin, I. H. Hogan, and M. Kennedy.

Report of Committee on Orders was called up.

The report provides that the order of Deacon be continued, and that the Discipline be so amended as to require that no applicant be elected to Elders Orders who has not first undergone an examination by committee on orders appointed by the Annual Conference.

On motion, the report was adopted.

A report of Executive Committee was taken up.

Moved by Br. Springer, that so much of the report as relates to trustees of churches, be adopted. Agreed to.

On motion Br. R. M. Dalbey,

Resolved, That the Western Recorder, edited and published by Br. A. H. Bassett, Zanesville, O. is entitled to the approval and patronage of the Methodist Protestant Church.

Br. Bassett from committee on statistics submitted report of said committee which was on motion adopted.

The report provides that the Discipline hereafter require the Annual Conferences to publish with their minutes the number of houses of worship in their respective Districts.

Br. Collins moved to appoint delegates to attend the World's Convention. Agreed to.

Brethren, G. Brown, T. H. Stockton, F. Waters, C. Springer, W. W. Hill, W. Starr, and S. K. Jennings, were severally nominated and appointed.

Br. Morrison offered the following:

Resolved, That the Committee to prepare a history of the M. P. Church, be requested to collect and publish in proper form the productions of the standard writers of our church on Mutual Rights. Referred to Lit. com.

On motion, Br. Henkle, it was, *Agreed*, That the following be published with the forms in the book of Discipline.

FORM OF RELEASE OF A MINISTER OR PREACHER.

A. B. the bearer, is hereby released from any further obligation to continue his ministerial labors in _____ circuit or station, and is also entitled to receive this testimony of his good moral standing in the M. P. Church."

Br. Stephens introduced a Resolution, which after some discussion, was withdrawn, to give place to the following, offered by Br. Springer:

Resolved, That this General Conference so understand the Constitution, that all circuits and stations are entitled to choose delegates to the An. Conferences, not only to ballance the regular itinerants in charge, but the superannuated, those left without appointments, and others who belong to the Annual Conference, and who may reside within their bounds.

On motion Br. R. M. Dalbey, *Agreed*.

Resolved, That Sec. I. of Discipline, page 43, be so changed as to make one third of the members of the quarterly conference in stations, constitute a quorum to do business.

On motion Br. Stephens, *Agreed*, that the Board of Foreign Missions be continued.

On motion, *Agreed*, that the Board of Foreign Missions be authorized to employ missionaries for Oregon.

Moved by Br. J. Dalbey that the Secretary of this Conference be authorized to furnish suitable credentials to Brethren E. E. Parish, J. M. Young, and C. Jeffries, as missionaries for Oregon. *Agreed* to.

On motion Br. Bassett,

Resolved, That the Book Committee be authorized to publish the minutes of the last and present sessions of the General Conference in pamphlet form, if they deem expedient.

On motion, Br. Brown, the President was requested to close the session with prayer.

The minutes were read, amended, and approved.

At half past 12, the conference on motion adjourned *sine die*. Prayer by Br. Waters.